

# inspire

A WHY NOT PROSPER MAGAZINE

WINTER ISSUE, 2021

REV. DR. MICHELLE SIMMONS

## Strength From Above

*Insights*

### Power in the Pain

A POEM BY KAREN L. SMITH 2021  
"POINT OF TRIANGULATION" MURAL

### Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project Increases Efforts In Ensuring Humane Prison Conditions

SU MING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTIONAL LAW PROJECT

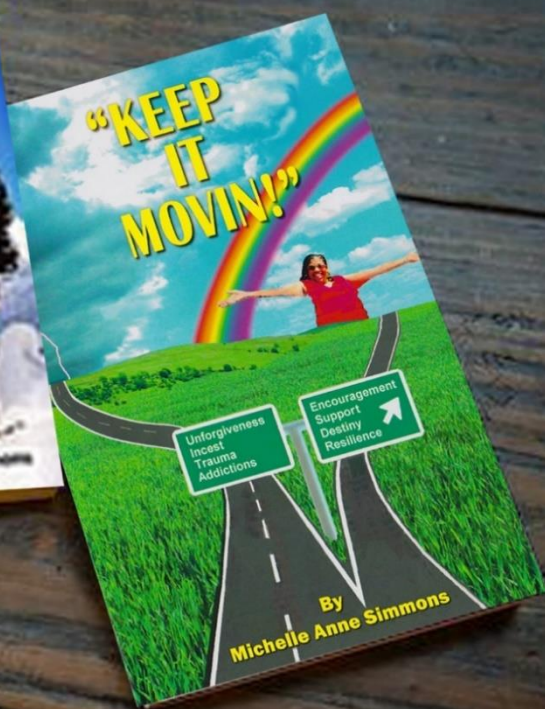
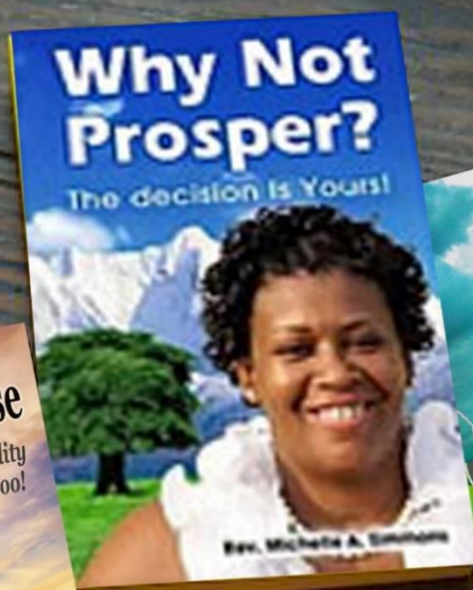
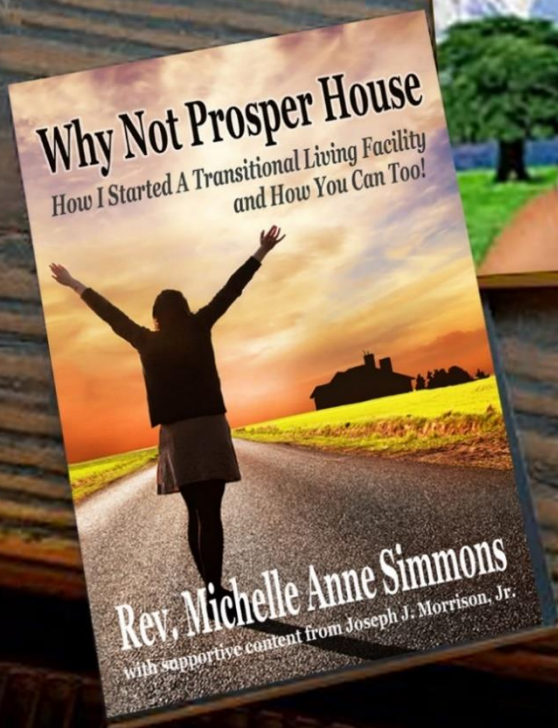
### Consequential Leadership Trait: Lifelong, Everywhere, Learning

JAYME ANNE GOLDBERG, FOUNDER  
CONSEQUENTIAL FLOWERS

SPECIAL  
THANKS TO  
GOOD GREEN

P. 28





BOOKS BY:

REV. MICHELLE  
SIMMONS

*unplug with a book*

### Why Not Prosper House

In 2003, Rev. Michelle opened Why Not Prosper House, a transitional facility for female ex-offenders. The materials, stories and wisdom shared in this book are a direct result of her experience in starting, running, and growing this home.

### Why Not Prosper? The Decision is Yours

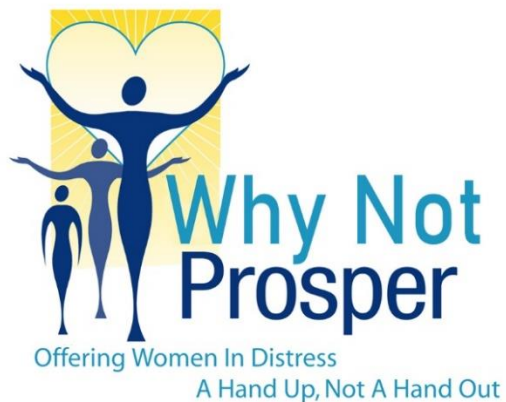
Why Not Prosper? is Rev. Michelle's own grassroots effort in establishing Why Not Prosper, Inc. A single mother of two children, she has overcome many challenges and much adversity but her leadership, advocacy, heroism, and humanitarianism have afforded her opportunities to travel the world and minister to others.

### Keep it Movin'

Born into dysfunction, raised by a drug dealer, as a child Rev. Michelle was drawn into a godless life of sexual abuse, addiction, drug trafficking, theft and prostitution. This is her own account of how she turned her life around. She hopes it will inspire others to do the same.

**AVAILABLE AT: [WWW.WHY-NOT-PROSPER.ORG/SHOP](http://WWW.WHY-NOT-PROSPER.ORG/SHOP)**





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# GROW HOUSE HARRISBURG, PA

*240 S. 13th Street, Harrisburg, PA*

The Giving Real Opportunities to Women (G.R.O.W.) House is long-term and permanent housing for formerly incarcerated and trans women who are part of the Why Not Prosper program.

As a secondary safe and supportive residential community and resource center, it will serve women transitioning from the Pennsylvania prison system to living independently.

The G.R.O.W. House seeks to promote long-term housing stability, enduring sobriety, family reunification, employment and reduction in recidivism.

## House Features

3-story apartment building

- 12 one-bedroom apartments
- 4 two-bedroom apartments
- A modern business office for residents and community engagement
- Additional Why Not Prosper staff



## Collaborators

The **Sappho and LaRoyce Foundation** will manage the Gender Affirming Program to assist and support with wrap-around service, life skills, job readiness, and financial literacy.

The **Franklin County Prison** will also provide support with parole and probation.

**Call 610-716-1113 for info.**





# INSPIRE

## AT WHY NOT PROSPER

**I'M FEELING A LOT OF DIFFERENT EMOTIONS** for me and the organization and the world. For the most part, it was an amazing year. We celebrated our 20th anniversary. Why Not Prosper really stood up for the community and the ladies in the midst of the pandemic. Our strength was exhibited standing on the front lines against injustice, keeping our doors open, and expanding our services through the pandemic. It was kind of bittersweet; we were proud to be a stand-up organization in the midst of the turmoil, but it was also sad to lose family and friends to COVID-19.

In 2021, we started Sisters With A Goal (SWAG), who created a hotline under my direction. The Inspire Magazine was also created to be a source of information for what's going on in our community to dispel myths during the chaos in our city, and this is our fourth edition. Thank you to everyone for sending in articles and ads to keep the magazine alive and fresh!

We served over 730 people during the pandemic through housing, the resource center, the workforce academy, the hotline, our teleservice in Montgomery County, and our Share the Bounty food program where we distribute food on Mondays and Tuesdays. We also created our first app filled with recovery and re-entry resources for people in Philadelphia.

The twelve one-bedroom apartment house in Harrisburg was birthed this year, and an acre of land in Eagle Rock was donated to us, and we are now fundraising to open up a retreat house there. We're also approaching a million dollar budget. These are some achievements we completed just this year.

Personally, this was a year of growth and strength and travel. I was able to visit three continents in the midst of the pandemic. I traveled to Egypt, Aruba, Rome, Spain, and I will be going to Thailand in January.

A special thank you to my Why Not Prosper interns from the University of Pennsylvania, my board of directors (new and old), our community partners, and our funders that have believed in us and allowed us to take program money and use it for general operations – what a way to shift priorities in a much-needed time! A special thank you to the staff. This year could not have been the way it was without you.

Thank you to everybody who has supported us and held our arms up. All of this did not go unnoticed, and we are so grateful as we close out this year. Simply put, this was a year beyond measure.

Gratefully,

*Rev. Dr. Michelle A. Simmons*

Rev. Dr. Michelle A. Simmons



Rev. Dr. Michelle Anne Simmons



# Healthcare Connections for Women in Reentry Coalition

Healthcare Connections for Women in Reentry is a coalition of community leaders working to reduce barriers in and improve the quality of healthcare, especially Medicaid for individuals impacted by the criminal justice system.

Our coalition elevates this population's healthcare concerns and issues to policymakers and stakeholders to ensure these citizens have the care and resources they need to live healthy lives.

For inquiries, contact Rev. Michelle at [whynotprosper@aol.com](mailto:whynotprosper@aol.com).



## **MEMBERS INCLUDE:**

*Latonya Myers, Why Not Prosper; Abel Adegbiiji, New York Life; Kadiatu Sillah, Forensic Services; Katherine Addison, Forensic Services; Patrick Kennan, PHAN, Jijo Jacob, Shop & Carry Pharmacy; Rev. Dr. Michelle Simmons, Why Not Prosper; Stanley Sturgis, Mental Health Partnership; Faith Bartley, Why Not Prosper; Better Health Wellness; I'm Free; PMHCC; Miram Clinic; Ann Swartsman, Ex-Offenders for Community Empowerment; Tonie Willis, Ardellas House; Defenders Association. Sisters Returning Home, Peggy Simms, Rise, The Office of Addiction Services, Rhonda Johnson, Fred Way, Pennsylvania Alliance of Recovery Residents (PARR); Stop and Surrender; Stephanie Scully, Joy of Living; Christina Wall, I'm Free; Carmeta Johnson, Department of Human Services.*



# Welcome to the Staff



## Marcus Greene Operations Director

(C) 215-459-6494 | [mgreene@why-not-prosper.org](mailto:mgreene@why-not-prosper.org)

Mr. Marcus Greene comes from a background in Business Administration, Marketing, and Business Analysis, from Penn State University to Pierce College and Tucks School of Business At Dartmouth University. He has worked with The Enterprise Center, The African American Chamber of Commerce, and multi-million-dollar marketing firms. He brings a host of experience that will be utilized in his role as Operations Director to fulfill the goals and vision of Why Not Prosper. Welcome Aboard!





# FDA CLEARED AVACEN MEDICAL DEVICE FOR PAIN RELIEF & MORE!!!



The AVACEN 100 is a heat therapy system indicated for relief of muscle and joint pain and stiffness; the relief of joint pain associated with arthritis, muscle spasms, minor strains, and sprains; muscular relaxation; and the increase of micro blood circulation for the smallest vessels.

Book a session and come to Why Not Prosper to try this non-invasive new technology!

**To purchase a device go to**

[www.avacenmedicaldevice.com](http://www.avacenmedicaldevice.com)

**For more information go to**

[www.avacen.com](http://www.avacen.com)



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## **Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project Increases Efforts In Ensuring Humane Prison Conditions**

The Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project (PILP) has intensified its efforts in ensuring that all people who are incarcerated are treated humanely. PILP is a statewide legal aid organization that advances the constitutional and civil rights of incarcerated and detained people in Pennsylvania, by providing free civil legal assistance, pro se assistance, legal advocacy, and legal representation.

Currently, PILP is working on several projects. First, since April 2020, PILP has been working to improve the conditions in the Philadelphia County jail system through a class action lawsuit called *Remick v. City of Philadelphia*. The lawsuit focuses on protecting people in the Philadelphia jails from COVID-19, and combatting dire conditions such as lockdowns, failure to have access to necessary or timely medical care, increased violence, lack of hearings before placement in disciplinary segregation, and not getting to court. In November 2021, visits from family and friends finally re-started after 1 ½ years due to the legal team obtaining a court order for these visits. PILP and the legal team manage a hotline so that incarcerated people make free confidential legal calls 5 days a week, and have been in touch with over 1500 people incarcerated in the Philadelphia jails.

Next, PILP has expanded its work in increasing access to medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) in jails and prisons (for example, methadone, suboxone, and naltrexone). PILP has a lawyer and paralegal focused on this issue, and recently filed a lawsuit on behalf of a man who was forced to withdraw from methadone when he was incarcerated at George W. Hill Correctional Facility in Delaware County. PILP has also provided legal advice to numerous people across Pennsylvania, both in county jails and the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections.

Another PILP's project expands legal assistance to incarcerated women, transgender men and women, intersex people, and nonbinary people, as well as people of any gender who have experienced sexual violence while incarcerated. This project is focused on the Northeastern region of Pennsylvania. PILP seeks to help obtain necessary health care and disability accommodations and addressing other civil rights concerns.

For more information, contact any one of the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project's offices, or go to: [www.pailp.org](http://www.pailp.org) or email [info@pailp.org](mailto:info@pailp.org).

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T: 412-434-6004

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Lewisburg, PA 17837  
T: 570-523-1104  
F: 570-523-3944





## **TELESERVICE HOTLINE** **FOR JUST RELEASED WOMEN**

**1-866-C-ME-NOW5**  
**1-866-263-6695**

*Our mission is to help formerly incarcerated women break the cycle of recidivism by offering resources, healing, self-love and transformation through mentorship and advocacy.*





**Happy 2022!** It's a year to discover deeper depths of YOU!! The year 2021 came, went and is now a part of our history. As Opportunity, Inc. ended its 10 years in service celebratory events, we sum up our decade with the phrase, *In Joy*.

Inspired by our Sista2Sista Soul2Soul communal art project in November 2021 with members from Let's Get Free, CADBI and FAMM, we underwent a series of deep meditation exercises, processing our experiences as family members and advocates of persons who are incarcerated and painting. In addition, we laughed and cried. The most endearing memory during our time together creating art work for our Sistas included the joy experienced in the moment. Each of us walked away with a deeper sense of human connection. We did not simply enjoy one another and the process of creating for those on the inside. We existed in joy... We want to remain in joy by creating art for community connections for our 318 Sistas who are incarcerated and serving 20 years or more in the state of PA. We are grateful for the collaborations and strategic partnerships with Why Not Prosper, ReConstruction, Inc. and Keep It Real Ministry in Philadelphia; Naomi's Project in Maryland and Let's Get Free in Pittsburgh. Each of these partnerships has and is making this program a success. More so, kudos to our volunteers in California, Georgia, Virginia, Maryland, New York, NY and Philadelphia who write our Sistas every month. To support our work, you can donate via:

1. Cash App: \$OpportunitytoAdvance
2. Snail mail a check or money order: PO BOX 28020 Philadelphia, PA 19131
3. PayPal: [contactdrwebb@gmail.com](mailto:contactdrwebb@gmail.com)

If you would like to volunteer or host a communal art project, then email Dr. Webb at [drwebb@opportunitytoadvance.com](mailto:drwebb@opportunitytoadvance.com).

In joy,

**Dr. Latisha Webb**  
CoFounder & Principled Creative





SISTERS WITH A GOAL

# SWAG



## ACTIVATE YOUR POTENTIAL

FOR MORE INFO:

**REV. MICHELLE**  
610-716-1113

**FAITH BARTLEY**  
267-618-2129

**JOIN US!**

We're a group of formerly incarcerated women working to help other formerly incarcerated women. Join our fellowship to get trained in self-defense, community engagement, participatory action, and so much more! We help pay it forward every day.

We meet every Monday from 11am-1pm  
at 717 E. Cheltenham Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19144.





## SISTERS WITH A GOAL

Greetings and Salutations All!

My name is Faith Bartley, co-founder of S.W.A.G. (Sisters With A Goal), which is Why Not Prosper social justice arm. On behalf of our SWAG team, as we close out the year 2021, just wanted to acknowledge those of you who have been supporting the work that SWAG has been doing from the beginning.

In reflecting back on this year, SWAG has had numerous opportunities to partner with folks from Chosen 300 for food giveaways, and the Philadelphia Health Department assisting our community and our formerly incarcerated folks to get help with obtaining vaccinations in effort to help stop the spread of COVID during this pandemic. We also had the opportunity to support women behind the prison walls with LOVE bags which included tampons, shampoo, shower gel, and more. SWAG also went to Harrisburg to advocate for the incarcerated folks who at the height of the pandemic had no opportunity to get the vaccine, calling for the release of those that were at high risk of acquiring COVID. SWAG also created a hotline for women that were being released in providing them with the resources and a place to be housed, not to mention our first SWAG Resource Manual, which of course was filled with many resources and positive affirmations for returning citizens as they navigate through their re-entry process.

We will be ending our year with a Christmas celebration which will include many of the women that are returning home and their children which takes place December 23 2021. Our team would like to extend a special thank you for all who have supported our mission and our continuing efforts to support those women who have been marginalized and also advocate for those who have been systemically silenced. Thank you! Thank You!

Happy Holidays! Peace and Blessings!

*Faith Bartley*

Faith Bartley  
Co-Founder, S.W.A.G





**DIMPLEZ 4 DAYZ, INC.**

# **DIMPLEZ DREAMZ**

*WORKFORCE FELLOWSHIP*

**IN- PERSON & VIRTUAL**

**AGES 15-24**

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[www.dimplez4dayz.org](http://www.dimplez4dayz.org)**



# Finding help for your re-entry and recovery journey is now easier than ever.

The Why Not Prosper Re-Entry and Recovery Resource App puts everything you need to connect with service providers for housing, recovery, food, legal services, employment, parenting, education, healthcare and even city services, right in the palm of your hand!

download now:



scan the code or visit the website:  
[WWW.WHY-NOT-PROSPER.ORG/RESOURCE-APP](http://WWW.WHY-NOT-PROSPER.ORG/RESOURCE-APP)





# Power in the Pain

## The Past....

Can make you or break you ...take you from a being... to a could have been...

## The Lack of

Made the fear become a part of the front and not the rear....

My **Promise** seemed dim...

The Lights were never **BRIGHT**...

The Roads were **ALWAYS** so curvy... It was the normal...

To Fail then embrace Jail...

To allow the Spirit to chase a Vial with a single Dial...

Family, Friends, Neighbors, Communities could not get close Because The Addiction contributed to all The Convictions...

## The Truth

was nowhere in sight

Hopelessness was not the enemy... but the COMFORT ZONE...

The Days and Nights ran together

The Months made no recognition of a New Year...

What's Left?

What's is Left but— (Softly) A whisper...

The Addiction was **ALL OVER THE THE VISION**...

(Softly) A whisper...

What??!!! What did you say?

"There's Power in the Pain"... This is my **Last Run!!**

"There's Power in the Pain"... I'm going to get it **THIS** time!! "There's Power in the Pain"...

**I AM GOING TO BE STRONGER!!!** "There's Power in the Pain"...

**I WANT CHANGE!!!**

"There's Power in the Pain"...

**I WANT TO BE THAT EXAMPLE!!!**

"THERE IS POWER IN THE PAIN"!!!

**I CAN AND I HAVE THE WILL POWER!!!!**

**"THERE IS POWER IN THE PAIN"!!!** Grant me... "There's Power in the Pain"...

The Serenity... "There's Power in the Pain"... To Accept... "There's Power in the Pain"...

The Courage... "There's Power in the Pain"...

And the **WIS-DOM**... "There's Power in the Pain"...

(Slight pause)

The silent didn't protect

**Each Story** is different but **NOT** the **INSANITY!!**

## The OUTCOME

After every storm

There's a **RAINBOW**...

**THERE IS POWER IN THE PAIN....**

Not sure???

(Points) Just **LOOK** across the Street... Ase.

*Karen L. Smith*

*For Mural Arts Dedication Oct. 5, 2021 "Point of Triangulation" Mural*



# "Point of Triangulation" Mural

*Located at underpass on 21st and JFK in Philadelphia*



Faith Bartley



(l-r) Naiymah Sanchez  
John Thompson  
Rev. Dr. Michelle Simmons  
Jondhi Harrell  
Faith Bartley



Rev. Dr. Michelle Simmons





# PENNSYLVANIA ALLIANCE OF RECOVERY RESIDENCES

*Creating, evaluating and improving standards and measures of quality for all levels of recovery residences*

PARR is dedicated to ensuring that individuals in recovery can find safe and supportive housing throughout Pennsylvania. Our alliance provides guidance and a variety of resources to Recovery Residence providers to ensure that residents who live in PARR certified houses have the very best chances to succeed in their recovery journey.



[www.parronline.org](http://www.parronline.org)

PARR also provides administrative oversight and/or partnership with:



#### Peer to Peer Internship Program

A variety of peer related services to various sites throughout Philadelphia including quarantine, prevention, food distribution and congregate care sites.



#### Recovery Idol Competition

An annual competition designed to showcase the talent of persons in recovery while promoting positive self-image and self-expression.



#### Caring for Friends™ Food Program

Provides food and friendship to recovery residences, seniors, the disabled, the homeless, and families in need in the Philadelphia region.



#### Life Unites Us Campaign

A series of virtual interviews that show the diversity of those affected by opioid use in order to reduce the stigma associated with the addiction.



#### Drexel HOPE™ Project

A partnership that helps individuals with substance use disorders get connected to care, including medication assisted treatment.



# Top Fundraising Ideas You Can Use Today

By Joseph J Morrison, Jr.

I have been a professional fundraiser for nearly 35 years, and I am asked the same question, in different forms, countless times. *"What can we do to raise money?"* It's a simple enough question, but a correct answer depends on many other questions. What do you want to raise money for? (This is often the most important question to answer well). What resources do you have available? Do you have funds budgeted to raise money? (Most organizations don't). Who will do the work? How many people are available? What methods do you wish to use? And, on and on...

Although I can't answer all those questions here, what I can do is give a list of some very practical ways you can raise money for your cause. Some of these ideas I have used myself. Others I have not, and cannot attest to their impact or validity. However, the list is really just meant to get your brain active. I've found that one idea can often spur another, even better idea. If that happens to you while reviewing this list, then I've accomplished my purpose.

## **Hold A Talent Show/Bake Sale**

Put on a Talent Show (you might be surprised by the amount of talent you already have in your organization). Members bake items that are auctioned off during the program. Most items are sold by silent auction where a bid sheet is posted next to the item, but some larger items are auctioned off with a lively round of bidding. Snacks such as popcorn and drinks are also sold during the show. People are free to move around during the show to bid on items and purchase snacks. As part of the talent show, slides and videos can be shown of organizational activities, so members can see what you do. It really helps keep the community in touch with what your organization is all about.

## **Conduct A Fruit Sale**

This is one fundraiser that organization members look forward to each year. There are a couple of growers that specialize in providing citrus fruit from Florida, although they would need to be researched on the Internet to find contact information. Some are available from December to February.

## **Hold A FREE Car Wash**

Most car washes are hard work and not big money-makers. But a little hard work builds character. Here's a

new spin on an old classic; hold a FREE Carwash-a-thon. You get organization members, friends and family to get sponsors to pledge one, two, or three cents for each car you wash in an afternoon. This makes money several ways. If you wash 100 cars in an afternoon, that is a dollar from each sponsor (at a penny a car). If you have 20 sponsors, that is \$20 you have raised. If 20 members of your organization participate, that's \$400. This fundraiser gets a lot of cars, because people want to get their car washed for free. If a high traffic gas station will donate the space and the water, so much the better, because it's free and you get more traffic because people are already stopped. If you have a bucket that says "Donations accepted," most people will throw in at least a buck. So if 75 out of the 100 that stopped by for the free car wash donate at least a \$1.00, you have \$75 more dollars on top of the money that each organization member makes through their sponsors.

## **Prepare a CookBook**

Have organization members submit forms with their favorite recipes (do it by theme if you like -veggie dishes, fall recipes, etc.). The cookbook is then compiled (by a member with a nice computer) and then taken to a copy center to get it copied up and possibly bound. Sell the cookbooks to the organization members, possibly at a dinner where some of the favorite recipes have been prepared.

## **Conduct a Lip-Sync Contest**

Hold a lip-sync contest. People pay to enter, and they go up in front of everyone to lip-sync to their favorite song. Prizes are awarded for different age groups. These prizes can be donated by different companies. People also pay admission to come watch. It's a great chance just to hear the music, and every year, more people end up going. It's a lot of fun, and is very enjoyable for all ages. For a special twist - make the theme "Oldies" or some other theme.

## **Hold A Fashion Show**

Have your group get their favorite stores around your community to donate various outfits for the day's show. Select a few models from the organization, get some cool lighting and music going, form a runway, and then spread the word! Sell tickets for whatever you think is reasonable. Have refreshments available



afterwards. This is good advertising for the clothing stores plus a chance to show the community how involved the people of your organization are.

### **Take A Break**

Send out invitations to people who support your organization to sit down and take a break. Included with the invitation is a tea bag. Request an amount you'd like donated to a specific cause in exchange for the break you've offered them and inform them they will be listed in a local newspaper and organization newsletter (if you have one) for their assistance. This is an easy and fun way to raise some extra money without the expense of holding an actual event!

### **Sell "Organization Shares"**

Consider selling shares in our organization. Call it "(Your Organization) Shares" and sell one share for \$25 (or \$10, or whatever amount you decide the shares should be worth). Members have the opportunity to buy as many shares as they'd like. Hold a shareholders dinner and show videos and pictures of an organization project, and have members share personal stories about why the project was so important. This is a great way of showing the shareholders what their money went towards and how much their donations were appreciated.

### **Create A Cup and Mug Art Exhibition**

Hold an open art exhibition called "Cup and Mugs." Artists in your organization decorate and submit a decorated cup or mug. Charge a \$5.00 entry fee. Ask the artists to also donate the same or different cup or mug to be auctioned off at the end of the event. The event is great fun, and the artists can't wait till the next thematic arts exhibition and auction. Don't like the mugs idea? Try hats instead, or any other item you can think of!

### **Conduct an Indoor Golf Tournament**

If you have the facilities, this idea is one that will get lots of attention, and you'll have lots of fun doing. Create an indoor mini-golf course throughout your building. You can have as many holes as you'd like, up to eighteen; perhaps one hole for each floor or corridor. Use the natural layout of the hallways, and rooms. Create obstacles of furniture, which also serve to direct traffic in a specific pattern. If you can't get hold of actual golf putters -make your own out of stick or broom handle and a butter knife lashed together. Just like a real golf tournament, have participants pay an entry fee -\$5, \$10 -anything the market will bear. You can easily create and sell hole sponsorships as well - every person in your organization is a potential advertiser. Charge extra for

sponsorships: create packages that include foursomes and advertising. If you'd like, create an ad book out of 8" x 11" sheets of photocopied paper and charge additionally for advertising. Give-aways could include office supplies or materials - a calculator or stapler - anything cheap. Give a special prize for a hole in one on a particularly challenging hole. The comparisons with a real tournament are endless.

### **Potty Protection Insurance Fundraising**

The Odom Elementary School in Moultrie, Georgia, formed the Potty Pack to raise funds for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, by selling "potty protection insurance." For \$10, you can have one of the tacky pink and purple toilets placed anywhere you choose, including local businesses or someone's home. To have the potty removed, the recipient must pay \$15. A second option is to pay \$10 to have it passed on to someone else. If someone decides to be a "potty pooper" the group will remove the toilet for no charge. The team offers "potty protection insurance" for \$25. This insurance ensures that the potties will not be delivered to your home or business.

### **No Talent Contest**

Organize a talent contest where the contestants purposefully perform badly. Suggestions: singing out of tune for an entire song, silly and failing magic tricks, dance routine out of sync, etc. Advertise as a fundraising event for... (your organization) and... (reason). Charge \$1 for admission. Place signs at the entry point that state the entry fee is \$1, exit fee is \$5. However, to exit the building before the end of the contest is \$5 (or more). When the patrons exit and pay the \$5 fee, present them with a Thank You for supporting... (your organization) on a business sized card.

A portrait of Joseph J. Morrison, Jr., a middle-aged man with grey hair and a beard, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a striped tie. He is standing with his arms crossed against a light blue background.

**JOSEPH J. MORRISON, JR.**  
is Founder & CEO of Raiser Sharp Consulting, a Pennsylvania based nonprofit consulting firm focused on fundraising, building strong board and staff leadership teams and helping nonprofits become better known by the general public. More information is at [www.raisersharppconsulting.com](http://www.raisersharppconsulting.com)





# Virtual Pop-Up

## RESALE SHOP FOR WOMEN

♥ Coming Soon!

*Offering "Hand-Me-Ups" to women in re-entry*

### **Why-not-prosper.org/shop**

will be a virtual upscale thrift shop website owned by Why Not Prosper and operated by women in re-entry through Why Not Prosper.

Why Not Prosper's Pop-Up Virtual Resale Shop will feature new and gently used upscale apparel, shoes, and accessories for sale, with all proceeds benefitting Why Not Prosper and women in re-entry.

Be sure to keep your eyes open for our virtual **Grand Opening!** The items will be priced to sell and will go fast!



Follow us on Instagram:  
**@why\_not\_prosper\_shop**



For more info call:  
Rev. Michelle: 610-716-1113

*Feel good about what you WEAR!*

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We help Executive Directors of small to mid-sized nonprofits who want to start or grow their organizations but may not know how.

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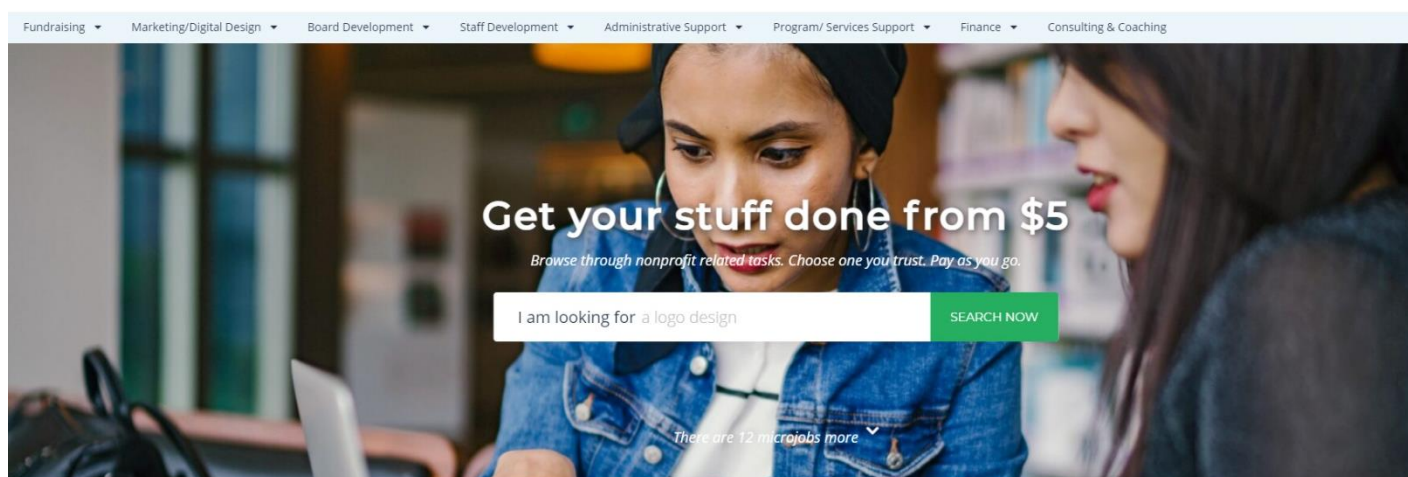
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[www.raiserssharpconsulting.com](http://www.raiserssharpconsulting.com)



# TaskIntern: A Place for Nonprofits to Get Things Done!

*A new initiative of Raiser Sharp Consulting and Why Not Prosper*



**WHEN COVID-19 BEGAN TO REEK HAVOC** in the world, we noticed something remarkable: *Nonprofit leaders didn't back down. They embraced the challenge and met it head on.*

We really weren't surprised, because that is what nonprofits do everyday. We were upset, however, that so many nonprofit staff were laid off, including many of those we work with. It was heartbreaking to hear the stories of how, overnight, nonprofit organizations closed their doors, if only temporarily, and were unable to serve their communities in the way they served them before. So, we had an idea. What if there was a place where nonprofit staff -including program leaders, case managers and administrative assistants and those that served the nonprofit community - like grant writers and bookkeepers who might have been affected by the pandemic- could go and earn a little extra income by offering their skills and help to other nonprofit organizations who were not so much affected?! We couldn't find such a place, so we partnered with Why Not Prosper and created our own.

It's called [TaskIntern.com](https://TaskIntern.com). It's like a Fiverr for Nonprofits - a microjob site where you sell small tasks or jobs starting at just \$5 and increasing in \$5 increments. The difference, however, is that it is specifically for nonprofit-related services, such as fundraising, marketing and leadership development, along with the normal business services such as logo design, administrative help and social media support.

Someone once told us that running a nonprofit is a series of 10,000 tasks a day - and they all have to be done! So, why not break those tasks down and have someone help advance your mission one task at a time? That's what [TaskIntern.com](https://TaskIntern.com) can do for you. Whether you are an executive director, board member, administrative assistant, social media expert, case manager, grant writer, poet, graphic designer, digital mailing specialist, consultant or finance manager, [TaskIntern.com](https://TaskIntern.com) can help connect you with the services you need.

For nonprofits, it's free to search for jobs (Tasks) and get help for a fraction of the cost you would elsewhere. And for sellers, it's free to post as many of your services as you'd like and reach our nonprofit community.

It's also a great opportunity for nonprofit clients that might have skills or services they'd like to offer, too - and earn a few bucks in the process. If you're in the nonprofit sector, or serving the nonprofit sector, you owe it to yourself to check out [TaskIntern.com](https://TaskIntern.com). You'll be glad you did.



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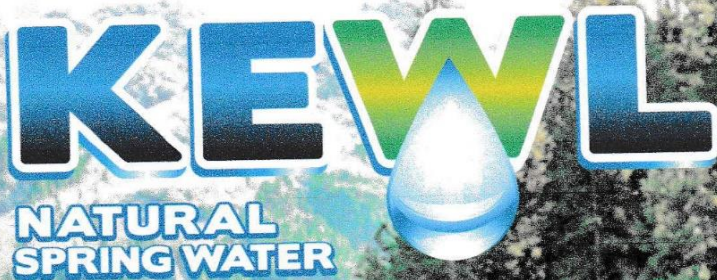
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Kewl is the fruit of many years of experience in the spring water sector. Water extracted from the spring, synonymous with freshness and softness. Kewl is natural water that comes from the depths of a lush aquifer. It travels through the rocks, filtering while purifying itself, in a journey that ends in a soft and delicate flavor.

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Bottle size:	16.9 OZ
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## PACK SIZE 24

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Cases per container:	1,680
Cases per pallet:	84
Case weight:	27.7 LBS
UPC Code:	 8 60002 90291 3
Truckload:	1,596 Cases





# WHY NOT PROSPER WORKFORCE ACADEMY

[www.why-not-prosper.org](http://www.why-not-prosper.org)

Why Not Prosper, in partnership with Covenant Training Academy, offers job Search Support, gives help with writing resumes, cover letters and online applications. You can apply for jobs, build your tech. skills, check emails, use the computer lab to study and take the Serv-Safe Food Handler Exam. Additionally, we offer Certificates in the following:



## National Caregiver Certificate

Approximate weeks of completion: 8 weeks [2 months]

**Program Description:** This course prepares students to take the American Caregiver Association National Caregiver Certification exam. The course covers the core essential areas of caregiving and provides students with the insight to start an entry level career as a caregiver in a nursing home, senior resident home, or personal home care for the elderly.



## Home Health Aide

Approximate weeks of completion: 15 weeks [3.5 months]

**Program Description:** The Home Health Aide Program is designed to prepare students for the Home Health Aide Certification exam. Students in this program will gain an understanding of home health aide services by studying both home care and clinical content. Students will also be provided real-life applications.



## Basic Office Skills Certificate

Approximate weeks of completion: 12 weeks [3 months]

**Program Description:** The Basic Office Skills Program is for persons desiring a career in an office environment. The student gains training in general office skills, computer skills, and office procedures. The graduate of this program will work in a variety of front office positions.



## Medical Receptionist Skills Certificate

Approximate weeks of completion: 34 weeks [6 months]

**Program Description:** The Medical Receptionist Skills Program is for persons desiring a career in a medical office environment. The student gains training in general office skills, computer skills, and medical office procedures. Students in this course will gain in-demand front office skills for hospitals, clinics, and other medical offices.

## Computer Lab Hours

Tuesdays 1-5 PM, Thursdays 1-5 PM

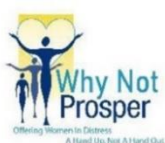
## Computer Training

Saturdays 12-2 PM

\*Must register prior to attending.

Email: [jfordwhynotprosper@gmail.com](mailto:jfordwhynotprosper@gmail.com)

Call: 215-842-2360



Our mission is to help women from prison systems discover their own strength by providing them with the support and resources that will empower them to become responsible, economically self-sufficient and contributing members of the community. We have 3 residential houses and beds are available. Call us at 215-842-2360.



# A Consequential Leadership Trait: Lifelong, Everywhere Learning

*(learned from putting on chair covers)*

by



CONSEQUENTIAL  
FLOWERS

Consequential Flowers helps to empower people to be bold, solutionary leaders.

Our vision is to live in a world where we each know the joy that blossoms within us when we empower ourselves and each other to thrive. We cultivate our vision with an intentional focus on seeding and nurturing bold, solutionary leadership growth. One key leadership attribute is becoming a lifelong, everywhere learner. With this talent, our brains become trained to always be open to identify lessons from everything. Sometimes we learn from situations that are not obvious.

A growth mindset enables us to continuously grow our strength and positive impact as leaders.

We are blessed to have the opportunity to volunteer and partner with Why Not Prosper. The bold leadership lessons that we learn from our work together is always powerful, beautiful, and memorable.

The most recent leadership lesson that we registered was from the Why Not Prosper Holiday Party.

This lesson was so important that we wanted to share it with the whole Why Not Prosper community.

As we were setting up for the party, we covered the chairs in ivory cloth to create a festive, fun space. Even with all the dozens of people and tasks related to party preparations-band, food, beverage, toy set up, and more - Reverend Michelle noticed that a few of the chairs still had their chair legs exposed. The covers were not tucked on properly on these few chairs. Reverend Michelle told us that the covers must be adjusted and that no chair legs should be exposed.

This kind of attention to detail, even seemingly small details is essential for bold, solutionary leaders. As leaders of ourselves and others, our eyes must always be open, our mind attentive, our standards upheld with the small things. It is all the small things that add up to big, transformational impact.

As we start this New Year, we're reminded to learn from everywhere and to "cover the chair legs" in all we do. It all adds up!



# Clothed N Strength



## OUR MISSION

Empowering women, through faith-based initiatives, so they can return to society as well-equipped women of God. The program is about empowerment, hope and a belief in the value of each and every human life.

It is our mission to help women rebuild their lives and walk forward with faith-driven hope for the future as a contributing member of our community. The CNS Program ensures each woman is taught how to overcome barriers to success by providing access to needed services.

"Clothed N Strength has been a vision of mine since I left the Federal Detention Center in 2011. I made a promise to God that one day, if it's His will, I would be in a position to help the women in prison".

**TAMIKA WILLIFORD,  
FOUNDER**



Visit our website [www.clothednstrength.org](http://www.clothednstrength.org)  
Instagram: @ClothedNStrengthInc



## MOVITA: *The Motivator*

Movita Johnson-Harrell comes from five generations of poverty and addictions. She is formerly incarcerated. Movita is a five-time co-victim of homicide losing her father, only brother, a cousin and two sons. She broke generational curses of welfare dependency and substance abuse when she got clean from crack in 1994. At 30 years old with four children and two jobs she got her high school diploma and spent five years full time in college graduating from The University of Penn, an ivy league university, with three degrees including a master's degree of social work. During that time she created a multi-million dollar residential, training and education business.

Movita's life was devastated when she lost her 18-year-old son, Charles to a case of mistaken identity on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011. She created The CHARLES Foundation (Creating Healthy Alternatives Results in Less Emotional Suffering) and Movita and her family began to fight nationally to fight for communities of color on both sides of the gun. Movita realized that the disinvestment in communities of color was very intentional and that it was responsible for the increase in homicides and continued mass incarceration of black and brown people. This work led to Movita being appointed by criminal justice reformist District Attorney Larry Krasner as the Chief for Victim Services and Restorative Justice in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office in 2018 becoming the first Muslim woman appointed to a leadership position in the history of the office. Because the mayor would not fund a proven strategy to reduce gun violence and prison recidivism Movita ran for State Representative for the 190<sup>th</sup> District in West Philly and made history being elected the first Muslim woman to serve in the Pennsylvania legislature.

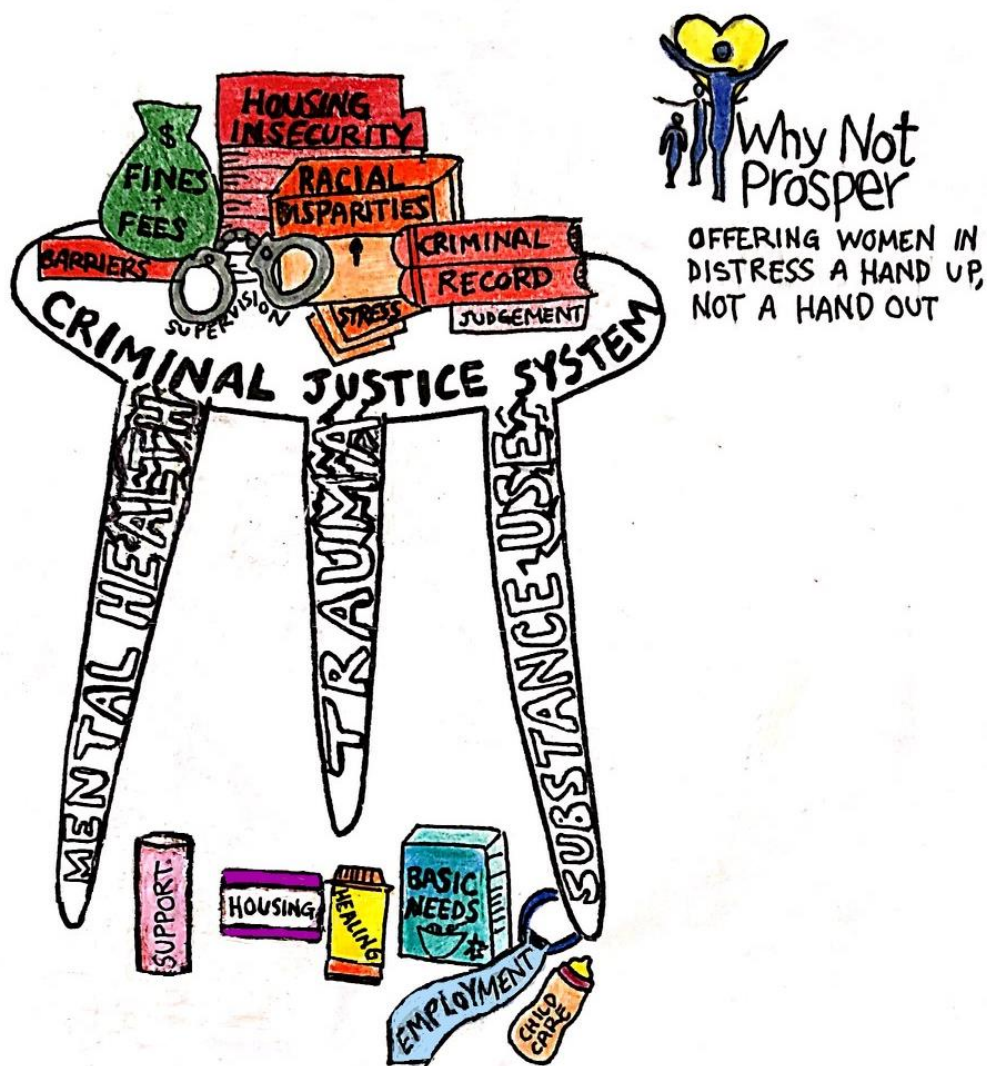
As a six-month freshman in the House of Representatives Movita was successful in securing \$1.3 million dollars in funding for a gun violence prevention strategy. Even after being targeted for being a black Muslim woman Movita continues to aspire to inspire. She lost her second son, Donte' Johnson on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, to a random drive by shooting while on a weekend trip to California. Still through her pain and loss she continues to work to clothe, feed and provide resources for the most marginalized in Philadelphia. On September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Movita released her long-awaited memoir "Phoenix Ascending: My Rise From The Ashes" which became an Amazon best seller within hours of its' release. Movita travels nationally as a motivational speaker engaging audiences from five to five thousand. She is a social justice advocate and serves as a voice for the voiceless. She trains and coaches women to move beyond the barriers that prevents them from living their best lives addressing issues of self-esteem, relationships, addictions, and entrepreneurship. Her strength is phenomenal. Movita is more than a survivor, she is a thriver, and she lives up to her name. MOVITA motivates!





## The Table of Criminal Justice

and its impacts on formerly incarcerated women



## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNER GOOD GREEN!



We are especially thankful to Good Green for supporting our women with a grant to help provide housing, food, ID's and other basic needs, such as those shown in the table above. We rely on our partners to do the work we do, and we are so appreciative of them. Thank you Good Green for helping our women in this way, and for making the world a better place to live!



# SELF LOVE EMPOWERMENT & NETWORKING *Brunch*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH, 2022 | 11AM TO 2PM

CLARION HOTEL

75 Industrial Highway, Essington, Pa 19029



MOVITA JOHNSON HARRELL  
MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER, ACTIVIST, AUTHOR



MIMI BROWN  
WDAS RADIO PERSONALITY, ADVOCATE



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Covid mask mandate: Proof of vaccine





*Above: Why Not Prosper representatives meeting leaders in the community.*

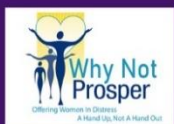
Inspire Magazine is a publication of Why Not Prosper, Inc.

It is designed to be a social, racial and health equity magazine featuring inspiration, insights and spotlights on our community's most pressing issues.

Why Not Prosper is a grassroots nonprofit founded by a formerly incarcerated woman for other formerly incarcerated women.

We are strong advocates for women and are committed to providing programs and services that support women in their re-entry efforts from prison to community.

Why Not Prosper provides a continuum of programs that includes Pre-Release Mentoring to incarcerated women, residential services at Why Not Prosper House and community services at our Resource Center located in Philadelphia, PA.



Why Not Prosper | 717 E. Cheleten Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144 | 215-842-2360 | [www.why-not-prosper.org](http://www.why-not-prosper.org)